REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 7-8 and 13-21 are pending in this application. Claims 7 and 13 are independent claims. Claim 13 is currently amended. Claim 21 is a newly added claim. Support for the amendment may be found throughout the Specification and Drawings.

Independent Claim 7 recites an element of "receiving, by an appliance service, an authentication interface dynamic base object ..., said appliance service being a content provider" (emphasis added). In rejecting Claim 7, the Patent Office first admitted that Dancs et al. ("Dancs", U.S. Patent No. 6,385,651) fails to teach the foregoing-indicated element (Office Action of 11/18/2004, page 3, line 10). Then, the Patent Office proceeded to allege that Nessett et al. ("Nessett", U.S. Patent No. 5,727,145) teaches the foregoing-indicated element, apparently analogizing the "location service" of Nessett to the "appliance service" in Claim 7 and the "dynamic invocation interface" of Nessett to the "authentication interface dynamic base object" in Claim 7 (Office Action of 11/18/2004, page 3, lines 11-14). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As indicated in Nessett, "[g]enerally, in a distributed object computing system, a Location Service is constantly running in the background of a host computer and is used to locate object servers" (emphasis added) (col., 1, lines 51-53), and "[a]n object server is a process that includes objects that may communicate with clients within the distributed object system" (emphasis added) (col., 2, lines 18-20). In other words, the "location service" of Nessett is something similar to a computer program since "the location service" is constantly running in the background of a host computer. This is totally different from a content provider. Thus, the "location service" of Nessett cannot be the "appliance service being a content provider" in Claim 7.

Moreover, even though the "dynamic invocation interface" of Nessett and the "authentication interface dynamic base object" in Claim 7 have a word "dynamic" in common, they are *not* equivalent. As indicated in Nessett, "[d]ynamic invocation interface 26 is used to enable clients to construct dynamic requests" (emphasis added) (col. 4, line 66 – col. 5, line 1). In other words, the "dynamic invocation interface" of Nessett is an interface, *not* an object, let alone an "authentication interface dynamic base object" in Claim 7.

At least based on the foregoing reasons, the rejection of Claim 7 should be withdrawn and Claim 7 should be allowed.

Claim 8 depends from Claim 7 and is therefore allowable due to its dependence.

Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 13, as amended, is neither taught nor suggested by Dancs, Nessett, or a combination of them. Thus, the rejection of Claim 13 should be withdrawn and Claim 13 should be allowed.

Claim 14-21 depend from Claim 13 and are therefore allowable due to their dependence.

Response to Patent Office's "Response to Applicant's Argument"

In the Response to Applicant's Argument section (Office Action of 11/18/2004, pages 4-6), the Patent Office clearly misunderstood Applicant's argument. Apparently, the Patent Office's rejection was based on the assumption that Applicant has argued about the claimed "testing" limitations (see, e.g., "The scope of the claimed 'testing' limitations clearly transcend the more narrow scope that Applicant attempts to impute through argument" – Office Action, page 5, lines 4-6; "the 'testing' limitations, as presently presented in the pending claims, do not specify a particular appliance to perform the recited testing operations." – Office Action, page 5, lines 26-28).

However, the "testing" limitation is *not* the argument raised in the Response to Office Action filed July 1, 2004 or in this Preliminary Amendment. Instead, in the Response to Office Action filed July 1, 2004, Applicant has argued, among others, that the "location service" of Nessett *cannot* be the "appliance service being a content provider" in Claim 7 and that the "dynamic invocation interface" of Nessett *cannot* be an "authentication interface dynamic base object" in Claim 7.

Floppy Disk

Per the Patent Office's request, Applicant has enclosed a floppy disk containing all pending claims along with Applicant's responsive remarks. Applicant understands that only the paper copy will be entered.
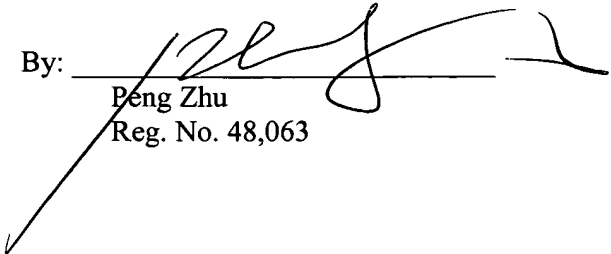
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in the case.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of

Gateway, Inc.,

Dated: February 18, 2005

By: _____

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